

# Sara Parks

*Curriculum Vitae*

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## EDUCATION

- 2016    **Ph.D. Early Judaism**  
McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies  
Dissertation: “Spiritual Equals: Women in the Q Gender Pairs”  
Supervisor: Dr. Gerbern Oegema
- 2005    **M.A. New Testament and Christian Origins**  
McGill University, Faculty of Religious Studies  
Thesis: “The Role of Women in 1 and 2 Maccabees”  
Supervisor: Dr. Gerbern Oegema
- 2002    **B.A. English Literature and Biblical Studies** (with distinction)  
Crandall University  
Thesis: “The Tao and The Way: Christian/Taoist Narrative Compatibility”  
Supervisor: Dr. Barry Smith
- 1998    **Foundation Diploma, Fine Arts**  
Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University

## CURRENT APPOINTMENT

- 2016            **Assistant Professor**, Concordia Department of Theological Studies
- 2012–present    **Director**, McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books Edited and Translated

- 2008            English translator of the French original: O. Mainville, *Les christophanies du Nouveau Testament. Historicité et théologie*. Montréal, Médiaspaul, 2008. (English edition forthcoming)

- 2006 Assistant editor: *The Changing Face of Judaism, Christianity, and Other Greco-Roman Religions*. Gütersloher Verlagshaus. Edited by Ian H. Henderson and Gerbern S. Oegema. Festschrift James H. Charlesworth. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2006.

### Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- 2017 “The Reception of Tobit and Sarah in Italian Renaissance Painting,” in *The Reception of the Apocrypha in Renaissance Art*. Edited by G. Oegema. Berlin: W.G. de Gruyter, 2017 (in preparation).
- 2007 “Widening the Possibilities for Ancient Biblical Interpreters: 1 Maccabees and ‘Scripture’.” *Scriptura: Nouvelle Série* 8/2: *Interprétation et Textes Sacrés: L’herméneutique Multiforme Des Grandes Religions* (Fall 2007): 23-36

### Encyclopaedia Entries

- 2017 “J. K. Rowling and the Bible,” in *The Bible and Fiction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
- 2015 “Greek Apocalypse of Ezra,” in *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by Michael Satlow. New York and London: Routledge, 2015.
- 2015 “Hasidim,” in *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by Michael Satlow. New York and London: Routledge, 2015.
- 2015 “Samaria,” in *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*. Edited by Michael Satlow. New York and London: Routledge, 2015.
- 2012 “Midwife,” in *Dictionary of the Bible and Western Culture*. Edited by Mary Ann Beavis and Michael J. Gilmour. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2012.

### Reviews

- 2016 “Review: Simon J. Joseph, *Jesus, Q, and the Dead Sea Scrolls*,” in *Arc: Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies*, McGill University, forthcoming.
- 2011 “Review: Matthew Coomber, *Re-Reading the Prophets Through Corporate Globalization*,” in *Arc: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies*, McGill University, 2011.
- 2007 “Review: Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*,” in *Arc: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies*, McGill University, 2007.

### Popular publications

- 2009 “Frequently Asked Questions: Protestant versus Catholic Bibles.” *Comme un Livre Ouvert: Haute Fidélité* 127/1 (2009): 15-16.

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Saint Lazarus Award
- 2015 Spirituality and Sustainability Grant, Hay Foundation
- 2014 Travel Grant, Inspirit Foundation
- 2012 Research Travel Grant, McGill University

2011	Dean's Fellowship, McGill University
2010	Dean's Fellowship, McGill University
2007	Conference Travel Award, McGill University
2005	Research Grant, SSHRC (Principal Investigator, Dr. Gerbern Oegema)
2004	First prize, Graduate Essay Contest, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

## INVITED LECTURES

Oct. 2016	"Are Luke's Women Q's Women?" University of Sheffield, UK
Dec. 2016	"Women in Q." University of Sheffield, UK.
June 2013	"Q Sayings: A Case for Radical Gender Equality in the Earliest Stratum of the Jesus Movement." St. Ambrose Conference on Bible and Justice, May 30 <sup>th</sup> –June 2 <sup>nd</sup> , St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.
2007	"Widening the Possibilities for Ancient Biblical Interpreters." <i>Scriptura</i> 8/2 Journal Launch, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec.
2005	"The Role of Women in 1 & 2 Maccabees." Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting, London, Ontario.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Papers Presented

2016	"What's at Stake in Feminist Responses to the Q Gender Pairs?" Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2016, Atlanta. (Proposal Accepted.)
2015	"Women in Q: Intellectual Equals but not Social Equals." American Academy of Religion Eastern International Regional Conference, May 1–2, McGill University, Montreal.
2012	"Pauline Gender Construction and the Augustan Reforms." The Once and Future World—the 17 <sup>th</sup> annual Concordia Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference, March 1, Montreal.
2008	"Ignoring Bernadette Brooten: 'Breaking Out of Subjectivity' a Lost Cause for Second Temple Jewish Studies?" Breaking Out of Subjectivity: Contemporary Challenges in the Study of Religion—the Annual McGill-CREOR Graduate Students' Conference, March 7, Montreal.
2007	"Harry Potter Canon Discourse and the Biblical Canons." "Rethinking the Concept and Categories of 'Bible' in Antiquity" group, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, with Aaron Ricker.
2006	"Solus Lector: If We Can't Agree on Harry Potter, then How Can We Agree on the Bible? (The Reader as Ultimate Canonicity Criterion)." Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Quebec City. Part of a four-part panel on Thinking with Harry Potter about Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation.
2005	"Biblical Interpretation in 1 Maccabees." Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal.

## CAMPUS TALKS

- 2015 “The Parting of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity.” McGill Faculty of Religious Studies.
- 2012 “The Reception History of Tobit in Renaissance Art: Initial Findings.” McGill Public Lecture Series, “The Reception History of the Apocrypha in Renaissance Art.” November 9<sup>th</sup>, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2012 “The Changing Status of Roman Women in the Wake of Caesar Augustus.” McGill Faculty of Religious Studies.
- 2007 “The Essenes and the Historical Jesus.” McGill Faculty of Religious Studies.
- 2004 “The Literary Criticism of the Hebrew Bible: Northrop Frye and Robert Alter.” McGill Faculty of Religious Studies.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2016 Assistant Professor, Theology, Concordia University
- Winter 2016 Occasional Lecturer, New Testament, Concordia University
- 2013 and 2014 Course instructor and designer, Early Judaism, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill  
“Reading Women in Greco-Roman Judaism and Christianity”
- 2004–2011 Teaching Assistant (including lecturing, supervising, and assessing undergraduate students), Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill
- The Christian Narrative through Art
  - Introduction to Sikhism
  - Jesus of Nazareth
  - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
  - Religion of Ancient Israel
  - Sexual Ethics
  - Women in the Christian Tradition.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012 SSHRC Research Assistant, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill
- I was responsible for uncovering depictions of the characters of Tobit and Sarah and the Maccabean martyrs in Italian Renaissance art, as part of a team of researchers who travelled to Florence, Italy, in search of the visual reception history of characters from the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Principal Investigator: Dr. Gerbern Oegema.
- 2005–2007 SSHRC Research Assistant, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill
- I was responsible for the examination of non-canonical texts from Greco-Roman antiquity in their original languages to help ascertain their history of interpretation in canonical Jewish and Christian writings with a view to their modern relevance, with funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Principal Investigator: Dr. Gerbern Oegema.

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2005–present Peer-reviewer for *Scriptura: Nouvelle Série*, Université de Montreal’s bilingual graduate student journal of theology and biblical studies; also responsible for translation of contributors’ abstracts between French and English.
- 2006 Volunteer, World’s Religions after September 11th Global Congress, Montreal, Palais des Congrès
- 2004 Volunteer, Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Montreal
- 2003 Assistant organiser and on-site facilitator, International Conference on The Changing Face of Judaism, Christianity, and other Greco-Roman Religions in Antiquity, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2016 Wellness Task Force, Student Life and Learning
- 2015 Founding Member, Spirituality and Religious Pluralism Community of Practice (for CACUSS, the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services)
- 2014–present Student Services Communications Committee
- 2011–present Academic Writing Group, Co-founder and leader
- 2011 Dean’s Advisory Committee, McGill University
- 2008 Governing board of the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)
- 2008 Conference Organizing Committee, first annual Religious Studies Grad Student Society (RSGS) Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference: “Subjectivities”
- 2008 Member-at-large, Religious Studies Grad Student Society (RSGS)
- 2006–2007 Faculty Review Group, McGill Faculty of Religious Studies
- 2006–2007 Faculty Council, McGill Faculty of Religious Studies
- 2006–2007 Co-organizer, Graduate Professional Development Conference, McGill Faculty of Religious Studies
- 2006–2007 Co-president, Religious Studies Graduate Society (RSGS)
- 2006–2007 Co-founder, FRS Language Lab (weekly translation workgroup)
- 2005–2008 Founder of the annual McGill Religious Studies Graduate Grant-writing Workshop (“SSHRC-shop”)
- 2005 Assistant organiser and on-site facilitator, Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Religion and Health for the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)
- 2004 Graduate Policies and Procedures Committee, McGill Faculty of Religious Studies
- 2004–2008 Co-founder, Biblical Studies Women’s Association (regular discussion group for McGill women in the Biblical Area)

## SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- 2015–present Board of Governors (Interfaith Consultant), Walking School Bus (literacy non-profit)

- 2014–present Founding member, Community of Practice for Spirituality and Religious Pluralism for CACUSS (Canadian Association of College and University Student Services)
- 2014–present Board of Governors (Treasurer), Enpuku-Ji Zen Centre, Montreal
- 2012–present Board of Governors (Secretary), Cause 4 Paws Animal Rescue and Advocacy, Montreal
- 2010–present Founder, Moncton Treekeepers/Sentinelles des Arbres de Moncton

## OTHER UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2012–present **Director**, McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life
- Responsibilities of the Director of this wing of McGill's Student Services include: hiring and nurturing a non-salary team of 15 to 20 chaplains of various faiths; spearheading religious literacy initiatives; hiring/managing staff, student staff, and volunteers; designing and implementing a wide range of programming to cater to a diverse and international student population; assessing immediate student needs and triaging referrals to the appropriate cluster of services and resources; strategic planning; budget; assessment; liaising with academic units for collaboration; staying abreast of current research and best practices in campus chaplaincy; curating an interfaith library and digital meditation library; designing and managing a non-denominational prayer and meditation space.
- 2013–2014 **Residence Life Manager**, McGill Student Housing and Hospitality Services
- Responsibilities of a McGill Residence Director include: managing and supporting a team of floor fellows (dons); overseeing the living space and easing the transition for 250 first-year students; crisis management; monitoring and ensuring safety; educating students in Harm Reduction; liaising with faculties to increase student engagement and foster community; organising social and academic events to cater to a diverse student population; offering non-judgemental listening and confidential referrals to students in distress; sitting on student committees in an advisory capacity; organising and chairing the selection committee for the hiring of future floor fellows; interviewing/hiring potential floor fellows; mentoring floor fellows as they receive training in creating safer spaces, active listening, sexual and mental health and wellness, LGBT issues, drug and alcohol interactions, religion/race/culture, and more.
- 2012–2013 **Office Assistant**, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill
- As office assistant, I performed a wide variety of administrative tasks as required, such as answering phones and emails and assisting walk-ins, referring students to appropriate departments across McGill, preparing the proceedings of conferences and board meetings for dissemination, managing elaborate print jobs, overseeing setup for Faculty events, sending communications to list-serves, designing event advertisements, and managing the social media presence.
- 2012 **Buddhism Web Assistant**, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill
- As web assistant, I gathered and uploaded MyCourses materials for several of Prof. Victor Hori's Buddhism courses.
- 2008–2016 **Translator**, Faculté de théologie et de sciences des religions, Université de Montréal
- English translator of the original French monograph by Dr. Odette Mainville, *Les christophanies du Nouveau Testament: Historicité et théologie* (Montréal, Médiaspaul, 2008).

- French translator of the original English lectures, slide presentations, and grant proposals for Dr. Diana Dimitrova's Hinduism courses and research (2012–2015).
- 2006–2007     **Copy-editor**, *The Pseudepigrapha and Christian Origins*
- I handled the copy-editing and preparation of indices for *The Pseudepigrapha and Christian Origins: Essays from the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*. Edited by Gerbern Oegema and James H. Charlesworth. T&T Clark International, 2008.
- 2004–2006     **Outreach Assistant**, McGill Chaplaincy Services
- I worked part-time on the front lines of a busy university chaplaincy service, answering phones and assisting walk-ins, managing the drop-in lounge and prayer space, triaging students for referral to appropriate services, designing branding, creating posters and web advertisements, liaising with the Newman Catholic Centre, co-ordinating the Winter Coat Project for international students, and facilitating large-scale social events for the Student Parent Network.
- 2006            **Assistant Coordinator**, Colloquium on Religion and Health
- As assistant organiser at McGill's first Colloquium on Religion and Health, I coordinated the logistics of this interdisciplinary colloquium and prepared and edited the proceedings for dissemination to the CREOR (McGill Centre for Research on Religion) membership and its research partners.
- 2005            **Copy-editor**, *Early Judaism and Modern Culture*
- I handled the copy-editing, references, and indices for Dr. Gerbern Oegema's monograph, *Early Judaism and Modern Culture: Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- 2004            **Administrative Assistant**, CREOR Proposal
- I assisted with the preparation of a successful proposal for the creation of the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR).
- 2003–2006     **Editor**, *Radix* McGill Student Spirituality 'Zine
- As *Radix* editor, I recruited and managed a diverse multi-faith volunteer team, developed issue themes, solicited and reviewed submissions, edited for content, arranged layout, managed distribution and publicity, hosted launches, and trained subsequent editors.

## TEACHING AREAS

1 & 2 Maccabees  
 Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha  
 Bible and Art  
 Bible and Western Literature  
 Christian Origins  
 Dead Sea Scrolls  
 Feminist Criticism of the Bible  
 Feminist Theory and Methodology

Gospels  
Greek Language  
Hermeneutics  
Historical Jesus  
Historical Method  
Parting of the Ways  
Philo and Josephus  
Q Source  
Second-Temple Judaism  
Themes of the Hebrew Bible  
Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World  
Women in Early Christianity  
Women in Early Judaism  
Women in Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

## **LANGUAGES**

### **Modern:**

English  
French

### **Ancient Working Knowledge:**

Koine and Classical Greek  
Biblical Hebrew  
Biblical Aramaic

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
American College Personnel Association (ACPA)  
Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS)  
Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)  
Canadian Society of Biblical Studies (CSBS)  
Classical Association of Canada  
Enoch Seminar  
McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR), founding member  
Montreal Biblical Studies Colloquium (MBSC)  
Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies (SIIBS)  
Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)  
Spirituality and Religious Pluralism Community of Practice (SRPCoP)